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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 658
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to designate May as "Cumberland District
Drinking Water Month".

WHEREAS, water is the most important element in life; a one percent (1%) loss results in thirst and a ten percent (10%) loss can result in death; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is a water-rich state with abundant surface and ground water resources being an essential natural resource; and

WHEREAS, our water supplies were once thought to be inexhaustible and safe from contamination; however, drought conditions of the 1980s and the increased levels of toxic substances in our water supplies have focused attention on the vulnerability of both surface and ground water supplies; and

WHEREAS, more than half the population of the Cumberland District depends on ground water for drinking water supplies; and

WHEREAS, all living things depend on water; as a nation, we have been blessed with abundant quantities of fresh water to quench our thirst and to nourish our fields; and

WHEREAS, because it is easy to turn on the tap and obtain gallons of fresh drinking water every day, many of us often take that great blessing for granted; however, behind each gallon, behind each drop, are the combined efforts of scientists, engineers, legislators, water plant operators and regulatory officials; and

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WHEREAS, these individuals are responsible for keeping our precious drinking water available, affordable and, above all, safe; people who depend on private wells for their water must assume the responsibility for its safety; and

WHEREAS, the federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 provides a framework for preserving and improving our nation's drinking water; this statute has been instrumental in eliminating the most acute public health problems caused by contaminated drinking water; and

WHEREAS, the 1986 amendments to the act call for new and more stringent standards to help guard against other hazards that threaten the nation's drinking water; and

WHEREAS, studies show that bacterial contamination of private wells is a widespread problem in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in the future years, new standards for drinking water will require changes in the design and operation of water treatment works in virtually every community in the United States, changes that will strengthen the safeguards protecting America's drinking water; and

WHEREAS, our nation must continue to identify and respond to the hazards that threaten its water supply; protecting our drinking water at its source will require an ongoing effort on the part of consumers, scientists and civic leaders; and

WHEREAS, Cumberland District counties include Bledsoe, Bradley, Cannon, Clay, Coffee, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Franklin, Grundy, Hamilton, Jackson, Macon, Marion, Meigs, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Rhea, Scott, Sequatchie, Smith, Trousdale, VanBuren, Warren, and White; and

WHEREAS, safe drinking water is a high priority of the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, the Tennessee Technological University Water Center, private water testing labs, and the Resource Development (RD) committees in the Cumberland District; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That May is hereby designated as “Cumberland District Drinking Water Month, and this General Assembly calls upon the citizens of the Cumberland District to observe this period with appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs designed to enhance public awareness of drinking water issues and public recognition of the difference that drinking water makes to the health, safety and quality of life that we enjoy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.